

REMARKS

The preceding amendment is respectfully submitted in response to the outstanding Office Action of June 12, 2006 on the above-identified application. Its entry is respectfully requested.

Prior to entry of the amendment, claims 1 through 10 are pending in the application. In the action, claims 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9 and 10 were rejected on the basis of the prior art, while claims 4, 5 and 7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the preceding amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations set forth in claims 2 and 4. This is equivalent to rewriting claim 4 in independent form. Having done so, claims 2 and 4 were cancelled, and claim 3 amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim 5 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of original claim 1 from which it depended. Finally, claim 7, which depends from claim 5, has not been amended into independent form as it depends from amended claim 5 which has been indicated to be allowable.

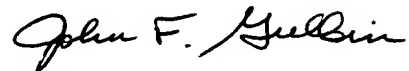
In the action, claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over Dehmann (International Publication No. WO 93/16762) in view of Brown (U.S. Patent No. 6,582,264). Claims 2 and 3, in addition, were rejected as being unpatentable for obviousness over Dehmann in view of Brown and further in view of Boyle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,764,766). Finally, claims 8 through 10 were rejected as being unpatentable for obviousness over Dehmann in view of Brown and further in view of Goldwitz (U.S. Patent No. 6,599,221).

The preceding amendments render these rejections moot as claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations set forth in original claims 2 and 4, and is therefore believed to be

allowable. Further, claims 3, 6 and 8 through 10 ultimately depend from claim 1 and further limit the subject matter claimed therein, and claim 2 has been cancelled.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1, 3 and 5 through 10 will be pending in the application. All are respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested and earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John F. Gulbin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "B".

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